Pending cases in subordinate courts

4900. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pending cases in subordinate courts and the number of Judges to deal with the cases;

(b) the norms fixed for the number of Judges for 10 lakh population; and

(c) the action proposed to appoint more judges to dispose of pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) As per available information, 2.03 crore cases are pending in the subordinate courts as on 31.10.2001. At present, there is a sanctioned strength of 12,737 Judicial Officers in the subordinate courts. As on 1.06.2001, the working strength of Judges / Magistrates is 10,880 to deal with the cases.

(b) and (c) No such norms have been fixed. However, the Supreme Court has given directions to the Central Government in the case of All India Judges' Association & Ors. *Vs.* Union of India & Ors. directing that the existing vacancies in the Subordinate Courts at all levels should be filled, if possible latest by 31st March, 2003, in all the States. The increase in the judge strength to 50 judges per 10 lakh people should be effected and implemented with the filling up of the posts in a phased manner and this process should be completed and increased vacancies and posts should be filled within a period of five years.

The judgment of the Supreme Court has since been forwarded for the information and necessary action to the State Governments and U.T. Administrations. Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs *vide* his letter dated 26th April, 2002 has written to all State Governments for taking early steps for filling up of vacancies in the subordinate courts on priority.

Recommendations of Indrajeet Gupta Committee Report

†4901. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which Indrajeet Gupta Committee was constituted for election reforms;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government have received the report of the said Committee; and

(c) the main recommendations of the Committee and the number of recommendations accepted/unaccepted by Government alongwith reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The Committeee on State Funding of Elections (Indrajeet Gupta Committee) was constituted on 3rd June, 1998.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Indrajeet Gupta Committee submitted its report to the Government on 14.1.1999.

(c) The report of the Committee was laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on 22.8.2000. The Committee recommended *inter-alia*, partial State funding of elections to the recognized political parties. In view of the recommendations of the Committee and in the light of the available information and certain developments in other countries as well as on the basis of discussions held in the all parties meeting on electoral reforms held on 13.9.2001. The Government has introduced the Election and Other Related Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2002 in the Lok Sabha on 19.3.2002.

Implementation of Article 44 of the Constitution

†4902. SHRI B.P. SINGHAL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court had sought a report from Government few years back on implementation of Article 44 of the Constitution; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in Smt. Sarla Mudgal *Vs.* Union of India on 10th May, 1995 directed the Government of India to file an affidavit indicating the steps taken towards securing a "uniform civil code" for the citizens of India.

(b) An affidavit in pursuance of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.